

GREEN BAY SESQUICENTENNIAL

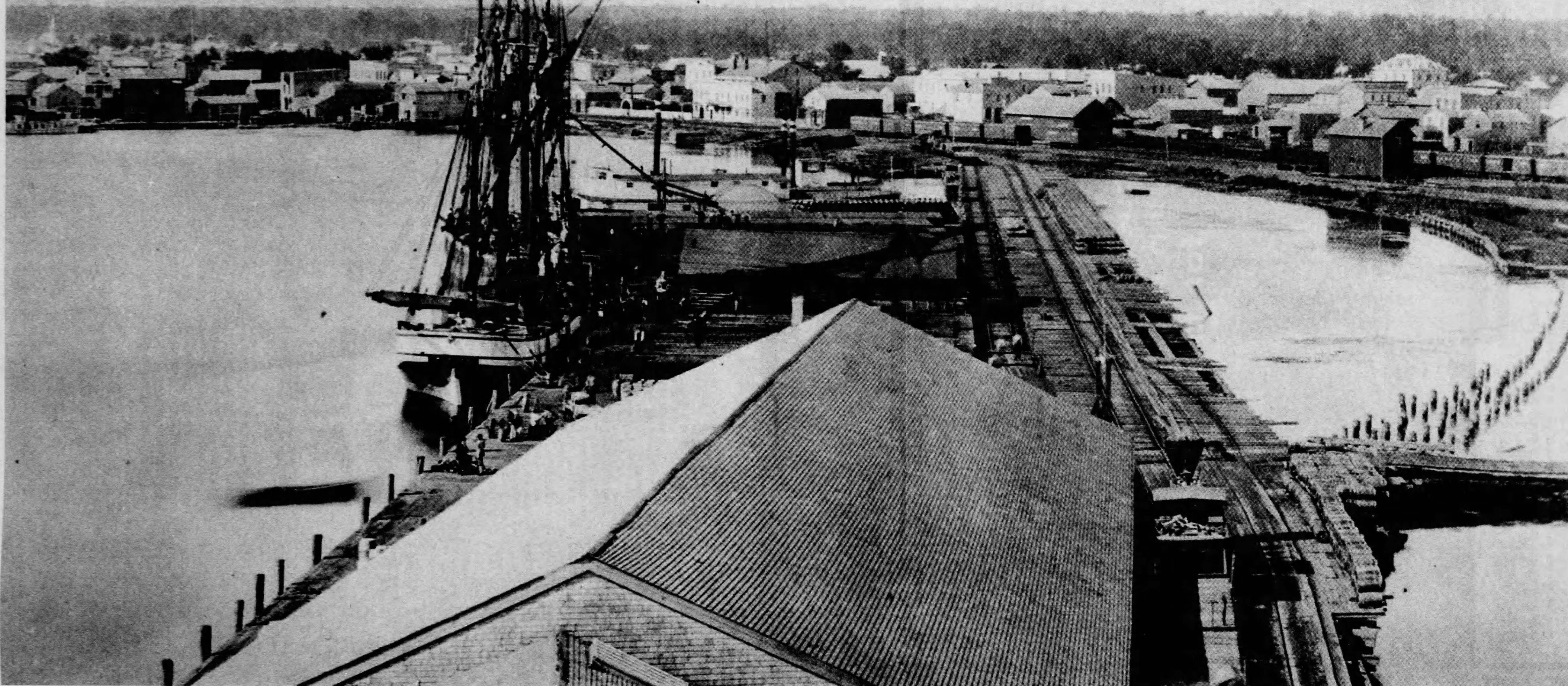
Contact Section Editor Daniel Higgins at (920) 431-8503 or dhiggins@greenbaypressgazette.com ■ Green Bay Press-Gazette

section
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Thursday, August 12, 2004 ★

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

1854-1903



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1850s *Green Bay is one of the most productive lumbering communities in the country and is famous for its hand-hewn shingles. In 1850, Franz Blesch opens the first brewery in Northeastern Wisconsin, at Fort Howard. In 1853, a party of 50 Belgian immigrants arrives at Green Bay, to be followed by thousands of their countrymen. Nationally, the issue of slavery pits the industrialized North against the agricultural South in a widening dispute that will lead to the Civil War.*

1854 Green Bay, made up of the former villages of Navarino and Astor, is incorporated as a city on Feb. 27.

1855 The winter of 1855-1856 is one of the coldest on record. For a period of 20 days, the temperature averages 12.5 degrees below zero.

1856 A four-room, cream-colored brick building is built to serve as the first city-owned public school, located across from Jackson Square. More than 200 pupils are expected to enroll in September 1857.

1857 Fire destroys the Astor House, for a time the most luxurious hotel west of Lake Michigan. The blaze is believed to be arson.

1858 An estimated 7,500 Belgians live in Northeastern Wisconsin, many of them in Green Bay.

1859 The Beaumont House is built by Messrs. Beaumont and Pelton. A new lighthouse is erected on Long Tail Point, near the site of an older one that was becoming worthless. It stands today.

1860s *As the nation dissolves into civil war, members of the Oneida Nation and German immigrants are among the first local troops to join the fighting. After the war ends, a scarred nation struggles through Reconstruction.*

1860 The census counts 1,923 residents in Green Bay.

1861 T.O. Howe becomes Green Bay's first and only U.S. senator.

1862 The Chicago & North Western Railway brings train service to Fort Howard on Nov. 10. That is followed on Nov. 13 by a special excursion train from Chicago, filled with dignitaries from that city, to mark the formal opening of the route. The milestone is a result of political arm-twisting on the part of railroad officials and prominent citizens of Brown County. If all had gone as planned by Congress, the train would have arrived in Shawano rather than Fort Howard. The telegraph comes to Green Bay soon after.

1863 The first free bridge across the Fox River, connecting Green Bay and Fort Howard, opens at the site of present-day Walnut Street. Elected officials in both Fort Howard and Green Bay decide to share the cost of the bridge, realizing that Carlton Wheelock's ferry service would not be able to handle the traffic between the cities.

1864 A huge fire wipes out the entire block of Pine Street.

1865 On July 4, a 13-gun salute is fired from the remains of Fort Howard, the last time the old fort plays a role in any public event.

1866 Green Bay's first known organized sports team, the Stars, plays baseball, not football. Dwight Follet co-founds the Green Bay Gazette. It later merges with the Green Bay Press to form the Green Bay Press-Gazette.

1867 A new depot at Fort Howard is completed in the fall. A strait is cut through Grass Island to facilitate navigation.

1868 The Roman Catholic Diocese of Green Bay is established. Construction of the Green Bay, Shawano and Fort Wilkins Military Road starts in January.

1869 The French population numbers 200.

1870s *Nationally, over-speculation leads to widespread business failures in the early part of the decade. Railroads gain steam as a driving force in the economy.*

1870 Capt. John Denessen takes over the ferryboat business. He establishes Denessen Line in 1873.

1871 In early October, forest fires burn out of control for days across Northeastern Wisconsin. On Oct. 5, residents of Green Bay become alarmed when they awake in the morning to dense smoke. The air that day is described as suffocating, filled with flakes of ashes. On the bay, steamers navigate by compass and blow their foghorns because the shores are invisible. The city of Green Bay

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

The known history of the Green Bay area begins long before the city's incorporation in 1854.

Areas near the mouth of the Fox River are inhabited for thousands of years by various Native American tribes.

In 1634, French explorer Jean Nicolet becomes the first European documented to have set foot in the area. At the time, the terrain of the eastern riverbank near the bay of Green Bay is mostly inhospitable swampland.

It isn't until 1717 that Europeans take a strong interest

in developing the Green Bay area. The French build Fort St. Francois, which in the mid-1760s becomes a short-lived British installation, Fort Edward Augustus. In summer 1816, the U.S. government dispatches several hundred soldiers to build Fort Howard on roughly the same site.

Under the protection of U.S. troops, business and commerce grow gradually, as the fur trade gives way to lumbering concerns. Wisconsin territory gains statehood on May 29, 1848.



Washington Street during the 1870s. Photo courtesy of Area Resources Center

is spared due in large part to residents of Bellevue, who work through the night to stop the wall of flames in their community. Peshtigois all but wiped off the map. The death toll climbs past 1,200. The Turner House in Green Bay serves as a hospital for fire survivors.

1872 The Crikelair Opera House opens.

1873 Fort Howard incorporates as a city. The 1870 census counts 2,462 residents there.

1874 Henry Baird convinces Rufus Kellogg to come to Green Bay to open a bank, now Associated Bank.

1875 East High School graduates its first class.

1876 City changes Monroe and Webster streets to avenues.

1877 Minnie H. Kelleher, a teacher, is elected superintendent of schools for Brown County.

1878 Henry Rahr advertises that his East River Brewery produces lager and bock beer that he recommends as an "excellent tonic for the sick and for nursing mothers."

1879 The Brown County Medical Association is organized, with a membership of 30.

1880s *Railroads and steel companies flourish. But labor unrest is growing. Demonstrations in Chicago's Haymarket in 1886 lead to the most sensational labor incident in the 19th century. That same year, the Statue of Liberty is dedicated in New York Harbor, welcoming thousands of immigrants who over succeeding decades will make their way to the Green Bay area.*

1880 A fire at the Astor Planing Mill, near Washington and Adams streets, consumes 60 homes and 20 barns.

1881 One of the area's worst blizzards, from March 2 to 6, leaves 12-foot snowdrifts. It's later dubbed the "Great Snow Blockade."

1882 An ordinance prohibiting roaming cows leads to one of the city's most controversial elections.

1883 A small group of civic leaders begins pushing for a public library.

1884 The city gets its first telephone. Within five years, the Wisconsin Telephone Company will have a sprawling office at 224 Cherry St.

1885 On Sept. 13, voters in Green Bay decide to keep tavern licenses at existing fees, while in Fort Howard voters approve higher fees, increasing them from \$200 to \$500. Tavern owners predict the higher fees will bring the demise of smaller establishments, where a glass of beer costs as little as a penny. Saloons and houses of ill repute catering to lumber-industry workers flourished in Fort Howard during the 1870s. In response, elected officials banned taverns and saloons from any street in Fort Howard west of Broadway.

1886 Local leaders begin serious conversation about bringing streetcars to Green Bay.

1887 Electric lights make their first appearance in Green Bay. The Washington Park Club House, at East Walnut and Baird streets, is built. It gains the distinction of becoming the city's first bowling establishment, when four or six lanes (records are unclear) are installed in 1895.

1888 St. Vincent Hospital, the first permanent hospital in Green Bay, opens.

1889 Citizens of Green Bay vote to support a public library. Two families, the Kelloggs and the Nevilles, are instrumental in founding the city library system.

1890s *The Panic of 1893 plunges the country into depression. Unemployment is widespread, and many banks close their doors. In 1898, the United States goes to war against Spain. Victory in the Spanish-American war gives the United States control over former Spanish colonies in the Pacific and Caribbean, including the Philippines and Puerto Rico.*

1890 The YMCA is incorporated on April 24. It dates to the 1870s in Fort Howard. The William Larsen Canning Co. begins operation.

1891 The city's Dock Wallopers baseball team joins the Wisconsin-Michigan League. Frank E. Murphy, president of the club, apparently becomes upset with the team's losing play and misbehavior on the road. He takes the train to Terre Haute, Ind., on Aug. 2 and returns home two days later with the entire Terre Haute team.

1892 Dennis Murphy is belatedly awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroism at the Battle of Corinth, Miss., Oct. 3 and 4, 1862. The citation reads: "Although wounded three times, carried the colors throughout the conflict."

1893 Streetcars come to Fort Howard.

1894 Streetcars come to Green Bay.

cording to longtime residents. While a bonfire of tar barrels burns on a raft set adrift in the Fox River, a torchlight parade moves from Main Street in Green Bay across the river, where it picks up more people on Broadway before returning. Men, women and children, hundreds with kazoos, join in the parade. Many taverns and saloons on both sides of the river give away beer and spirits.

1896 By summer, "trolley parties" are all the rage among local women.

1897 A sandlot football team from Green Bay claims the "state" championship.

1898 The League of American Wheelmen, the national bicycling organization, votes to allow the Green Bay Pastime Club to host the annual state cycling race, which is usually held in Milwaukee.

1899 Green Bay Historical Society, the first local historical society in Wisconsin, is established.

1900s *In Washington, D.C., President Theodore Roosevelt leads the trust busting that reins in corporate America. The new century brings a flowering of innovation. In 1903, Orville and Wilbur Wright make the first powered airplane flight, and in 1908, Henry Ford introduces the Model T.*

1900 By this year, J.F. Bartles has a Stanley Steamer automobile.

1901 The Lucia brothers, who own a bicycle shop in Oconto, introduce the first automobile to Green Bay, a two-cylinder Duryea.

1902 Bay Beach Park begins to take shape after J.A. Cusick, a local tugboat captain, buys into the operation. By 1912, as many as 15,000 people flock there on weekend days.

1903 The Green Bay City Band is established.

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Each section begins with a brief timeline of some of the more memorable moments in city history.

After that whirlwind tour, look for some of your favorite subjects with short stories, photos, timelines and other bits of information.

Whether you like Packers or paper-making, we have plenty of interesting information, even for the nonhistory buff.



Early immigrants to the Green Bay area were mostly European. Immigrants continue to move to Green Bay but now they are mostly Hmong and Hispanic. Photo courtesy of the Brown County Library System

Population, by census years

Year	Fort Howard	Town of Preble	Green Bay
1850	N/A	N/A	1,923
1860	694	560	2,275
1870	2,462	1,108	4,666
1880	3,083	1,099	7,476
1890	N/A	1,160	13,823
1900	N/A	1,957	18,684
1910	N/A	2,465	25,286
1920	N/A	2,864	31,017
1930	N/A	4,074	37,415
1940	N/A	4,116	46,235
1950	N/A	7,176	52,735
1960	N/A	12,245	62,888
1970	N/A	N/A	87,809
1980	N/A	N/A	87,899
1990	N/A	N/A	96,466
2000	N/A	N/A	102,313

IMMIGRANTS STILL CHANGING THE FACE OF GREEN BAY

Press-Gazette

NATIVE Americans were here first, of course. Then came French-Canadian fur trappers, followed by Yankee traders.

But it was successive waves of European immigrants starting in the middle of the 19th century that made Green Bay into a bustling small city and left their names gracing city streets and parks.

Oftentimes, immigrants first settled in rural areas, then made their way through luck or design to the city.

Ireland's potato famine sparked the Irish immigration, beginning in the late 1840s. Because the Irish could speak English and had little faith in gaining prosperity from the land, they were more likely to choose city life over farming.

The Germans came in two waves. Protestants, many of them skilled craftsmen, left Germany from 1845 to 1855 for political reasons. A later wave, mostly Catholics, were agrarian people looking for fertile farmland. By 1890, it was estimated that half of Green

Bay's civic leaders, with names such as Rahr and Hagemester, were of German descent.

A charter band of Belgians arrived in Wisconsin in 1853. They eventually were drawn to

the Bay Settlement area because a priest there spoke French, their native tongue. By 1856, it was estimated that 15,000 Belgians had arrived in northeastern Brown County, both the French-speaking Catholic "Walloon" Belgians and their Flemish Protestant counterparts.

By the 1870s, a number of Belgians had become community leaders in Green Bay, including the Joannes brothers, who ran a wholesale grocery.

Polish settlers first arrived in 1877. While many headed to Pulaski, others settled in Green Bay.

Another notable group was the Dutch, who settled in the Preble area along Finger Road. They teamed with the Germans in establishing the dairy industry. Scandinavians, many arriving from Door County, worked in shipbuilding.

The late 20th century witnessed two new waves of immigration. Hmong refugees who aided the United States during the Vietnam War began arriving in the late 1970s. And large numbers of Hispanic immigrants, mainly from Mexico, came during the 1980s and 1990s to work on farms and in meatpacking plants. The 2000 census counted 8,698 Hispanics and 4,935 Asian Americans, predominantly Hmong, in Brown County. Most lived in Green Bay.



ABOUT THIS SECTION

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DANIEL HIGGINS
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ON THE COVER

Looking south on the Fox River along the west bank, circa 1870s. Photo courtesy of the Area Resource Center.

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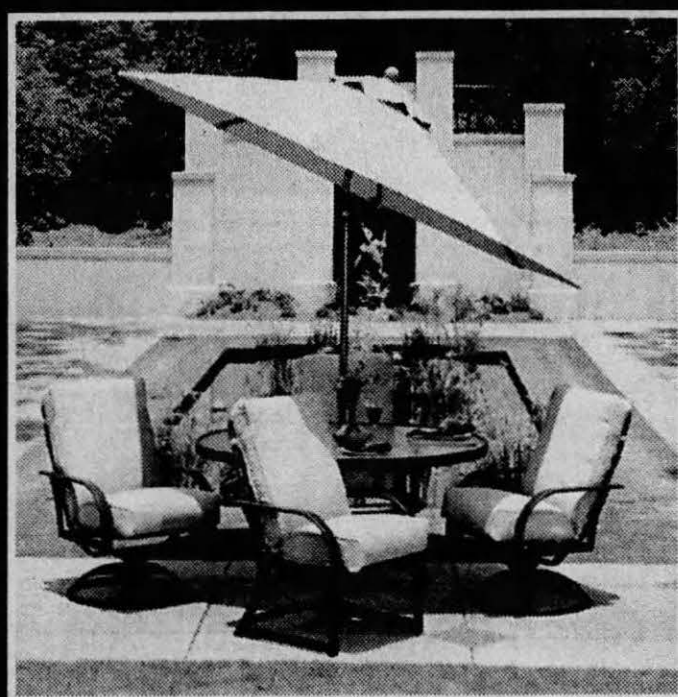
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The City



TIMELINE

1854

Green Bay, with its 1,524 acres of land east of the Fox River, is chartered as a city.

1895

The city grows more than four times its original size when it consolidates with the city of Fort Howard.

1960

Green Bay heads west, annexing 2,261 acres of the town of Hobart into the city.

1964

After more than seven decades of Green Bay nibbling at Preble, chunks of land at a time, the town of Preble joins the city, bringing with it 11,976 acres. The city had already annexed 1,653 acres.

2003

The city of Green Bay and the town of Scott swap more than 1,100 acres of Scott land for 90 acres of city land.

DID YOU KNOW?

City marriage

Green Bay's April 2, 1895, union with the city of Fort Howard was referred to as "the marriage of the Twin Cities."

No alcohol here

Today, as a result of that marriage, you still will not find a tavern between Broadway and Taylor streets on Green Bay's west side. The moratorium was guaranteed during the coming together of the cities.

Moving on up

Green Bay's 1964 consolidation with Preble moved the city up to the state's fourth-largest city in population from its sixth-place ranking. Today, Green Bay is the state's third largest.

Some opposition

Preble became part of the city of Green Bay at 12:01 a.m. Nov. 4, 1964 — hours after the 20,276 votes came in favoring consolidation. Between Green Bay and Preble, 5,983 voters opposed the consolidation.



The illustration showing the union of Green Bay and Fort Howard originally ran in the Press-Gazette on April 3, 1895. File/Press-Gazette



An 1863 panorama of Green Bay looking south from the bay. Courtesy of the Green Bay Historical Society

GREEN BAY HAS GROWN BY BITS AND CHUNKS

BY KAREN RAUEN
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OVER the years, Green Bay has nibbled at its neighbors, annexing bite-sized pieces and full-sized portions from the city of Fort Howard and the towns of Preble, Ashwaubenon, Hobart, Scott, Bellevue and Humboldt.

Green Bay's largest growth spurt came in November 1964, when residents of the town of Preble and the city voted to consolidate the two communities. Overnight, the city's population grew to 81,200 from 68,000. Nearly 12,000 acres were tacked onto the city.

"The impact on the Green Bay community will be immediate and significant," state planner Walter Johnson told the Green Bay Press-Gazette after that historic vote. "There is every likelihood that Green Bay can soon boast a popu-

lation of more than 100,000 and may soon rank as Wisconsin's third-largest city." The city has met both distinctions.

Norris Van Beek opposed the consolidation of his native Preble with Green Bay, but after the vote was taken, not much changed, the 82-year-old says now.

"It was just a matter of changing the name," Van Beek said. He served on the Preble Facts Committee in 1964, a group opposed to the merger.

Over the years, Van Beek's family farm, which once spread over 120 acres, has been sold off, leaving only the property on which his home stands.

Green Bay's girth has stretched from 1,524 acres in 1854 to its current size of roughly 29,490 acres. Today, the city's boundaries are largely locked, limiting the city's continued growth.

HISTORY NUGGET

Citizens vote to build bridge across Fox

From the Green Bay Advocate, March 1863:

The Vote on Saturday last, for the Bridge (at Walnut Street), was about as straight as they make them in any well-organized city. In the South Ward every vote was for the Bridge and in the North Ward, all but one vote was for the Bridge. This shows that the people of the city are anxious ... Advantage should at once be taken of the easy state of the money market, and our bonds disposed of, and the Bridge completed in the shortest possible time.

► All 150 History Nuggets can be found at www.greenbaypressgazette.com.

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Green Bay Neighbors Share Best Wishes on Its 150th Birthday

"Happy Birthday, and wishing you continued success" - *Pat O'Neil, Allouez Village President*

"Ashwaubenon extends a huge Happy Birthday wish to the City of Green Bay. Congratulations on 150 years!"

- *Nubs DeCleene, Ashwaubenon Village President*

"Best Wishes to the City of Green Bay from the Village of Bellevue, on its 150th Birthday celebration"

- *Bob Schlag, Bellevue Village President*

"Happy Birthday to our friends and neighbors in Green Bay" - *Mike Walsh, Mayor of De Pere*

"Best wishes from the Hobart Village Board" - *Rich Heidel, Hobart Village President*

"Howard joins its neighbors in celebrating 150 years of Green Bay" - *Bob Strazishar, Howard President*

"Congratulations Green Bay on your Sesquicentennial from the Town of Lawrence" - *Tom Peroch, Town President*

"Best wishes to Green Bay on the celebration of 150 years" - *Oneida Nation Business Committee*

"Happy Birthday Green Bay from your next-door neighbor" - *Scott Town Board*

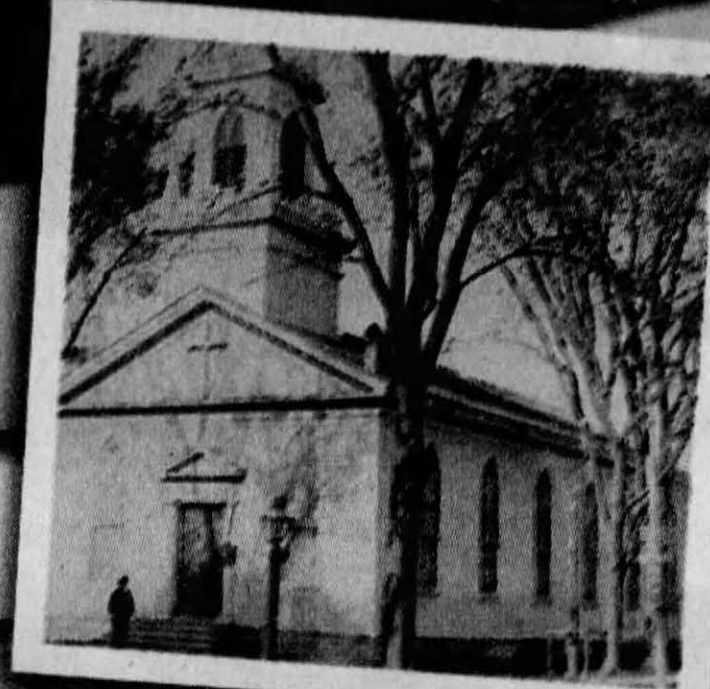
"Best wishes to the City of Green Bay in celebration of your Sesquicentennial" - *Tom Lund, Suamico Village President*

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Religion

greenbaypressgazette.com ■ Thursday, August 12, 2004 ■ F-5



EPISCOPAL ROOTS

Episcopal missionaries arrived in 1824. Christ Episcopal Church was the first Episcopal church built in the area in 1889. The original building burned down in 1898 but was rebuilt and remained open until 2002.



TIMELINE

1661

The first Catholic Mass is celebrated in northern Wisconsin by Jesuit Rev. Rene Menard.

1826

The first Methodist services are held in Fort Howard.

1831

Catholics build St. John the Evangelist Church in Shantytown. After a fire, it is rebuilt in 1847 at its present location on St. John Street.

1836

Union Congregational Church of Green Bay forms.

1836

The Methodist Episcopal Church is completed. It becomes the first Protestant building in Green Bay and possibly in Wisconsin, according to church records.

1851

First Baptist Church organizes and builds on Chestnut Avenue, just north of Walnut Street.

1862

First Evangelical Lutheran Church is established in Green Bay. The congregation meets first in the East Side Moravian Church and later in the town hall before building at the corner of Van Buren and Cherry streets.

1868

The Green Bay diocese is formed under Bishop Joseph Melcher, and St. Mary's becomes the "cathedral" of the diocese.

1873

Grace Presbyterian Church is built, though the Presbyterians have been worshipping here since 1838. The church closes in 2003.

1904

The first Jewish congregation is chartered.

1963

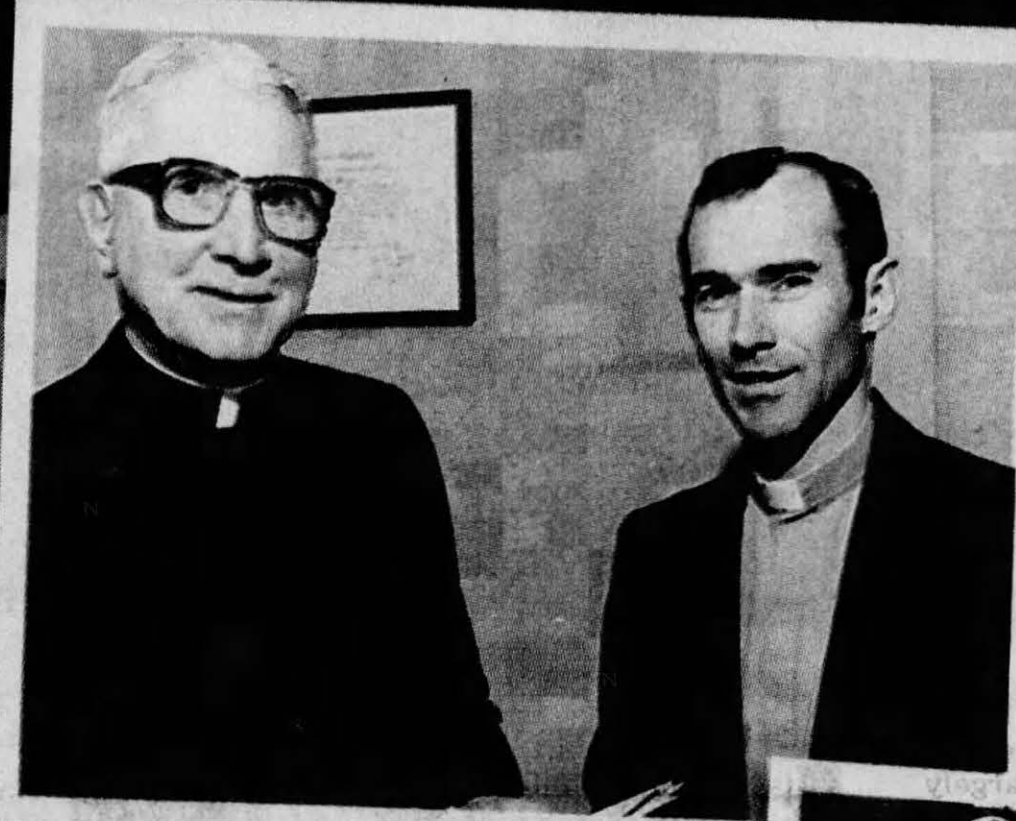
The Rev. Richard Mauthe founds the Newman Center, which becomes the first home of the Ecumenical Center in 1969.

2000

Deacon Luis Sanchez of St. Willebrord Parish is ordained. He is the first Latino deacon in the diocese.



Hun Ho, right, joins the Hmong Catholic Community in prayer during Mass at St. Jude Catholic Church. Photo by Bruce LaBonte



CATHOLIC LEADERS

► At 96, **BISHOP ALOYSIUS WYCISLO** (ABOVE LEFT) of the Catholic Diocese of Green Bay is the oldest bishop in the United States and the oldest bishop to have attended all sessions of the 1962-65 Second Vatican II Council, which modernized the Catholic Church. Wycislo served as bishop from 1968 to 1983. He lives in Green Bay and continues to work in ministry in the diocese.

► **BISHOP ROBERT MORNEAU** (ABOVE RIGHT), auxiliary bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Green Bay, was the first U.S. bishop ordained by Pope John Paul II. He was ordained Feb. 22, 1979.

NEAT GLASS

St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 341 Wilson Ave., Green Bay, has two one-of-a-kind stained-glass windows. One, which is in the narthex, shows St. Paul on the road to Damascus (right). The background has elements that make the story relevant for today. The committee incorporated this idea and authorized inclusion of silhouetted landmarks of Green Bay including the Brown County courthouse, the old Lambeau Field and farm buildings.



RELIGIOUS ROOTS PREDATE CITY, REMAIN STRONG AND DIVERSE

BY JEAN PEERENBOOM
jpeerenb@greenbaypressgazette.com

FROM Catholics to Jews, from Protestants to Muslims, Green Bay has always had a rich and diverse tradition in religious practices.

Catholicism dates to the arrival of the Jesuits in the 1600s, but the first churches weren't built until the 1800s.

The Catholic Diocese of Green Bay was formed on March 3, 1868, by Pope Pius IX. It included 15,378 square miles, extending from the Wisconsin River on the west, Lake Michigan on the east, the state of Michigan on the north and the Fox and Manitowoc Rivers on the south. At the time, the diocese had 22 priests.

Gradually, churches tied to ethnic groups began to emerge and Masses were celebrated in their native languages. In Green Bay, the Polish were associated with St. Mary of the Angels Church; the Dutch with St. Willebrord's; the Irish with St. Patrick's; the Germans

with St. Mary's, later renamed St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, and the French with St. John the Evangelist. Today, the Catholics continue to welcome new immigrants. Hispanics meet as a group at St. Willebrord's and St. Philip the Apostle churches, and the Hmong hold monthly services at St. Jude Catholic Church. But many of these recent immigrants are also members of parishes closer to where they live.

Meanwhile, Protestant sects also were forming. The arrival of American troops and the influx of settlers and immigrants from both east and south brought various forms of Protestant worship in the 1800s.

Over the years, faith traditions have become more diverse. A Jewish congregation was formed in 1904. Today there are many Protestant denominations — Assembly of God, Moravian, Baptist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Methodist, Congregational, United Church of Christ, Seventh-Day Adventists and more. Orthodox religions, the Church of Jesus Christ-Latter-Day Saints and Jehovah's Witnesses practice in their own church buildings.

Others, such as the Eckankar denomination, meet at the Ecumenical Center on the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay campus. Several nondenominational and interfaith groups have flourished, as well. Local Muslims gather in Green Bay for prayer or go to Neenah to pray at a mosque.

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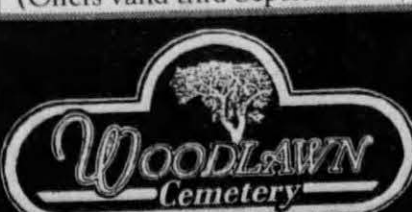


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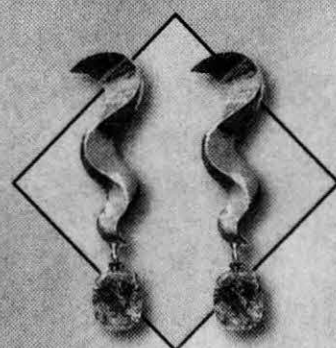
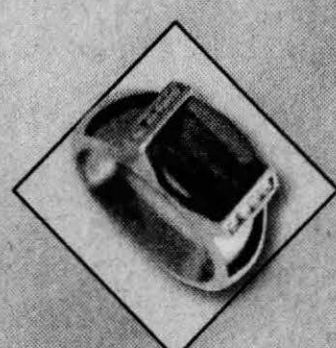
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Libraries



TIMELINE

1889

Green Bay Public Library opens with 1,500 books and 800 patrons. Julia Beaumont is the first to have a borrower's card.

1900

Deborah Martin becomes librarian at Kellogg Public Library. She remains there for 31 years.

1903

Carnegie Building is erected on Jefferson between Doty and Walnut streets, to house Kellogg Public Library.

1968

Kellogg Public Library and De Pere Public Library merge to form Brown County Library System.

1974

Brown County Central Library, 515 Pine St., opens to the public

1976

Brown County Central Library becomes headquarters and resource library for the newly formed multicounty system: Nicolet Federated Library System.

1980 & 1993

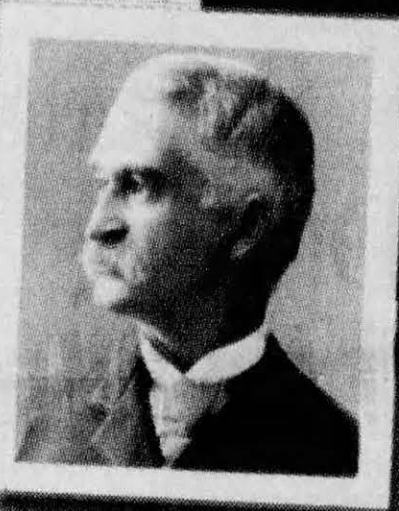
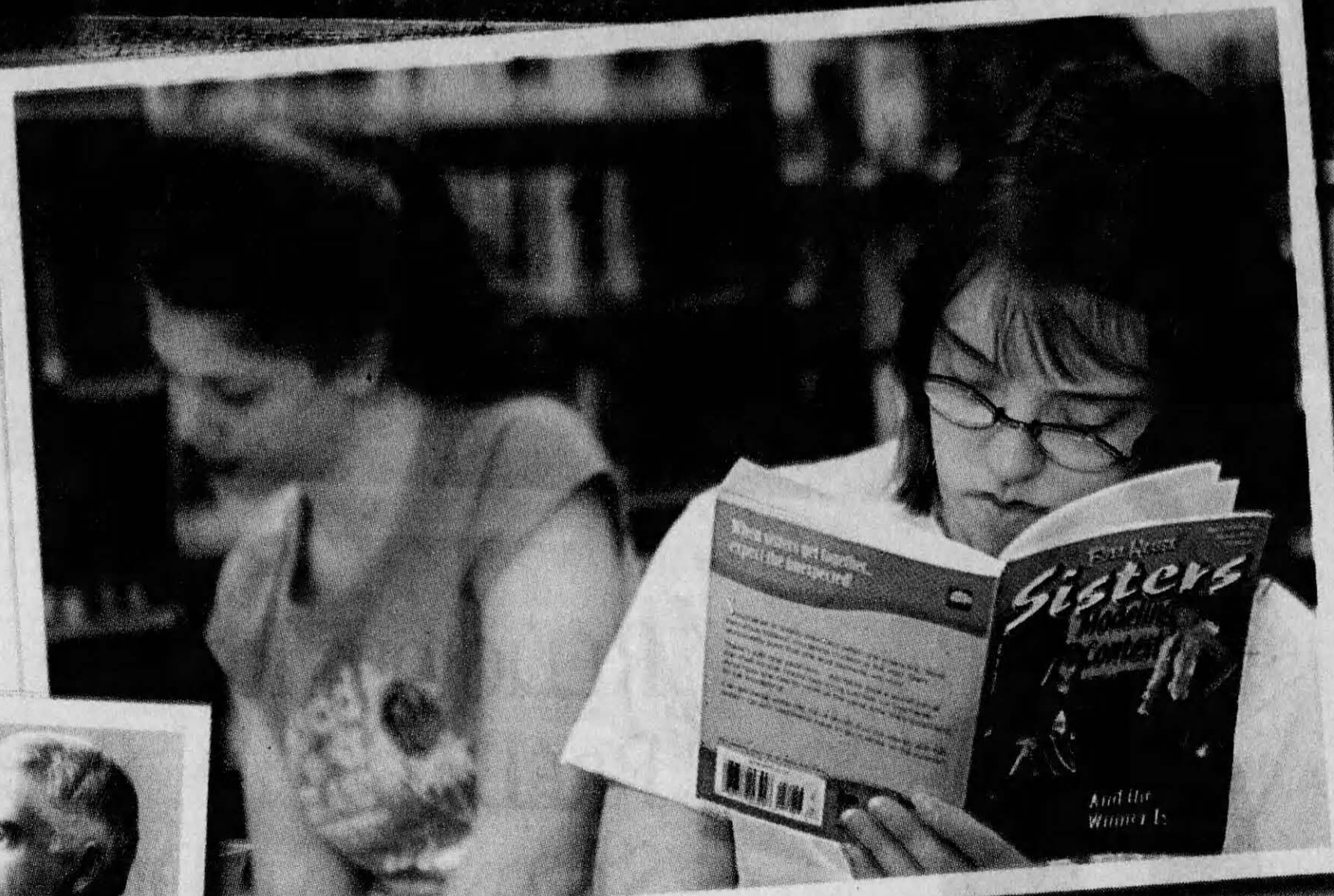
Brown County Library is honored as Wisconsin Library of the Year.

1994

Brown County Library is honored as National Library of the Year.

2004

Patricia LaViolette, above, retires after 44 years with library, including 18 years as library director.



Rufus Kellogg (left) provided financial support for a bridge to span the Fox River. In return, the city promised to budget money for a public library. The Kellogg Public Library (top, circa 1920s) eventually merged with the De Pere Public Library to form the Brown County Public Library System with the Pine Street location serving as headquarters. Photos courtesy of the Brown County Public Library System and Press-Gazette file

'COMMUNITY TREASURE' SURVIVED MANY CHALLENGES WITH HELP FROM PATRONS

BY TERRY ANDERSON
tanderso@greenbaypressgazette.com

BEFORE there was the Brown County Library system with eight branches and a bookmobile, there was the Green Bay Public Library, spearheaded in the 1880s by a group of civic-minded citizens.

They prevailed despite setbacks that included bank failures and voter rejection.

In 1888 after several failed attempts at creating a public library, Rufus Kellogg made an offer the young city could not refuse: Agree to budget \$900 annually for a free public library, and Kellogg would buy \$15,000 in municipal bonds the city was issuing for a bridge to span the Fox River at Walnut Street.

He would also immediately give the bonds back to the city,

in effect a gift of \$15,000, plus \$3,000 in interest that the city would have paid otherwise.

On April 2, 1889, the library opened its doors in the old post office building at the corner of Cherry and Adams streets. It had 1,500 books and 800 patrons.

In the early years, branches were established around town to cater to new immigrant groups. For example, branches on the north and east had books in Polish. On the west side at Tank Cottage, a branch had books in Norwegian.

Recently retired Library Director Pat LaViolette calls the library system a true community treasure.

"The principle that I lived by was articulated by Terry Swanson, who was a member of our Library Board. She said, 'If you keep public libraries strong, everyone will have the opportunity to succeed.'"

PRESERVING HISTORY

Deborah Beaumont Martin, longtime head librarian of the Kellogg Public Library, was instrumental in getting branches of the library in historic buildings such as Tank Cottage. Because these buildings housed libraries they couldn't be razed thus saving them. Many of those buildings are now on display at Heritage Hill State Historical Park.



DID YOU KNOW?



2,321,361

Materials circulated in 2003



1,282,064

Library visits in 2003



127,092

Attendance at 3,487 library programs.



80%

Households in Brown County have at least one active library cardholder.

519,287

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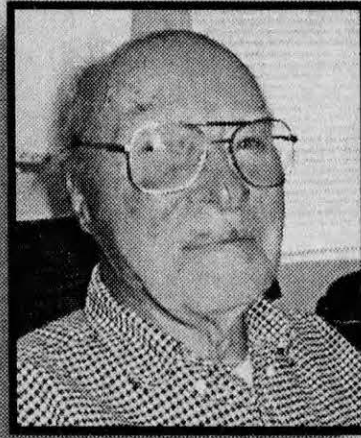
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Museum



A.C. NEVILLE

Arthur Courtenay Neville, for whom the Neville Public Museum is named, was instrumental in recording, preserving and displaying the history of Green Bay.

DID YOU KNOW? County owners

The permanent collections at the Neville Public Museum of Brown County are owned by Brown County. They include a collection of more than 100,000 three-dimensional objects, a photographic collection exceeding 1 million still images and a moving-image collection of more than 4 million feet (mostly news film dating from 1953).



Privy to success

"Privy to the Past: Inside America's Most Private Room," sponsored by Georgia-Pacific, an all-new exhibit developed and produced by the museum in 2002, received media attention literally around the world. Radio interviews and print features appeared across the nation from New York City to San Diego and from Sydney, Australia, to Tokyo.

Rock stars

Among the oldest artifacts are rocks from the Precambrian Era, 570 million years ago, with rare fossils of simple life forms — algae. They are on display in the permanent exhibit, "On the Edge of the Inland Sea."

Important loan

Perrot's Ostensorium is an important artifact on loan to the museum from the Catholic Diocese of Green Bay. In 1686, it was presented to the Jesuit Mission in De Pere, established by Father Claude Allouez in 1671, by Nicolas Perrot, the French commandant for the region.

Olympic link

In May, the Hellenic Museum and Cultural Center in Chicago opened an exhibit titled "Olympic Games: Then and Now." Its curator requested various documents from the Henry Furber Jr. archives. Among other topics, the exhibit uncovers the mystery about why the 1904 Olympics were moved from Chicago to St. Louis. The Neville is the only institution that holds records relating to these Olympics.

CHECK IT OUT Some unique items at the museum

- ▶ **A U.S. Navy deep-sea diving suit**, circa 1945.
- ▶ **Gloves worn by the grandfather of "Aunt Polly Doxater"** when he reportedly shook hands with Gen. George Washington.
- ▶ **Glasses reputed to have been worn by Louis XVI**, king of France.
- ▶ **A feather reputedly from "Old Abe,"** the eagle mascot of the Wisconsin Regiment during the Civil War, plucked on July 4, 1874.
- ▶ **An extremely rare "officer's undress frock coat"** belonging to Lt. Amos B. Foster, who was wearing it at the time of his death, on Feb. 7, 1832. He was shot by a soldier under his command at Fort Howard.



The Green Bay Art Club put together a one-week exhibit in the basement of the former Kellogg Library in 1915. It was the genesis of the Neville Public Museum. Standing in the background are Jessie Hurlbut Buchanan, Anne Dashiell Ellis and Jane Yeates Joannes. Sitting in the foreground is Lou Cochran Hall.

Photo courtesy of the Collection of the Neville Public Museum of Brown County

SHAWLS AND DONATIONS SPARK NEVILLE MUSEUM GROWTH

BY TERRY ANDERSON
tanderso@greenbaypressgazette.com

THE roots of the Neville Public Museum date to 1915, when the Green Bay Art Club, a group of local socialites, sought to preserve the history of Green Bay and surrounding communities through art on display at the Kellogg Library.

That same year they also arranged for an exhibit of antiques and artifacts at the library and received permission for a permanent display. The exhibit gradually expanded to the point that a separate museum was needed, said Curator of History Trevor Jones.

In 1925, Mrs. George Mason agreed to donate \$60,000 for an addition to the library building, at 129 S. Jefferson St., with the stipulation that Green Bay would contribute \$5,000 for upkeep of the building and rename the museum in honor of her stepfather, A.C. Neville, the museum's first director. It opened to the public on July 23, 1927.

In 1983, the museum moved into a new building, a \$3.5 million facility built along Dousman Street on the west bank of the Fox River.

"A public museum helps to give a community roots," said Kramer Rock, president of the museum board of directors. "Human beings are

BIG DRAWS

The "Mysteries of Egypt" and "Dinosaurs Rediscovered" are two of the most popular attractions the Neville Museum of Brown County has presented.

The 1989 dinosaur exhibit is the king with 312,332 visitors to its credit.

The 2000 Egyptian exhibit drew 177,789 visitors.



dynamic, but we also need a sense of identification of where we've been. You might be in Timbuktu, but you harbor the comfort of knowing that an old friend is still there. We have items that link the continuum of history from the 1600s to the present."

The museum draws about 75,000 visitors annually and features permanent and visiting exhibits, Jones said.

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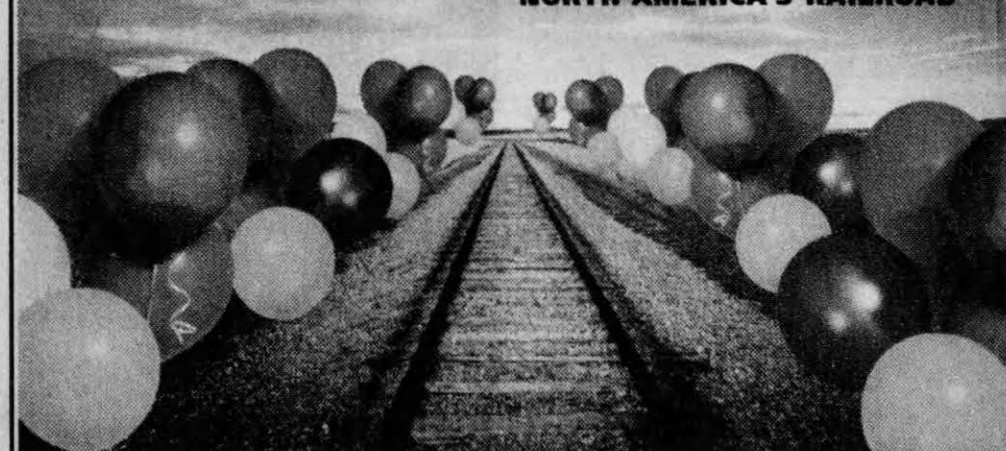
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Parks

Oldest park

Whitney Park is Green Bay's oldest, located on land set aside as a public commons by Daniel Whitney in 1829.



TIMELINE

1892

Businessman Mitchell Nedjedlo buys a strip of land on what's now Irwin Avenue for a private beach resort he names Bay View Beach — the origin of the present Bay Beach Amusement Park.

1895

The city's park system officially begins when the City Council creates a Committee on Public Grounds to oversee public lands.

1919

City Park Department is created when the Joannes family donates 43 acres with the stipulation that the city appoint a governing board.

1920

Businessmen donate Bay View Beach to city.

1929

City buys 222 acres, which later become the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary.

1933

State closes the beach to swimming at Bay Beach Park due to pollution. Some still swim till Green Bay Board of Health enforces closure in 1943.

1938

First joint recreation programs begin between parks and schools.

1948

City budgets \$300,000 for east- and west-side swimming pools.

1950

City takes over operation of Bay Beach Park, formerly leased to private operators.

1989

City moves July Fourth fireworks downtown from Bay Beach Park, home to the celebration since 1936.

1997

Baird Creek Preservation Foundation is created to assist Green Bay in acquiring land in the Baird Creek Parkway.

Did You Know?

Buried in the park

Baird Place, the park at the corner of East Mason Street and South Webster Avenue, was once a public burial ground. Most, but not all, remains were moved from the site after the Civil War.

Ultior motives

Jackson Square Park was named after President Andrew Jackson in the 1830s by a local mover and shaker who hoped to curry favor with the president to get a federal judgeship.

Rent a suit

People didn't usually own bathing suits, and suits once rented at Bay Beach for 10 cents. By the late 1920s, the price had risen to 25 cents, and Bay Beach had an inventory of 1,200 suits.

Seeing the prez

An estimated 100,000 people gathered to see President Franklin Roosevelt speak at Bay Beach Park on Aug. 9, 1934 — close to three times Green Bay's population of 37,415 at the time.



Children enjoying the water at Bay Beach. File Press-Gazette

PARK SYSTEM FEATURES BAY BEACH

BY PETER REBHANN

prebhann@greenbaypressgazette.com

FIRST it was called Bay View Beach, then Bay Beach Park and, finally, Bay Beach Amusement Park.

Call it what you will, Green Bay residents have known it for what it is: a good time and great deal.

"When I was a young man, there was always a nice dance at the Bay Beach pavilion every weekend," said 95-year old George Nau Burrige. "It was a very nominal charge to dance there, very

reasonable."

The nickel dances of the 1930s and the dime park rides that lasted into the 1990s are a thing of the past, but Bay Beach Amusement Park, one of the few 19th-century municipal amusement parks left, is still known as a place where a family can stretch a dollar.

Bay Beach exists because of the entrepreneurial skills of its founders, but Green Bay's park system exists largely because of the generosity of residents whose names — Tank, Joannes and Fisk, to list some — live on in its public spaces.



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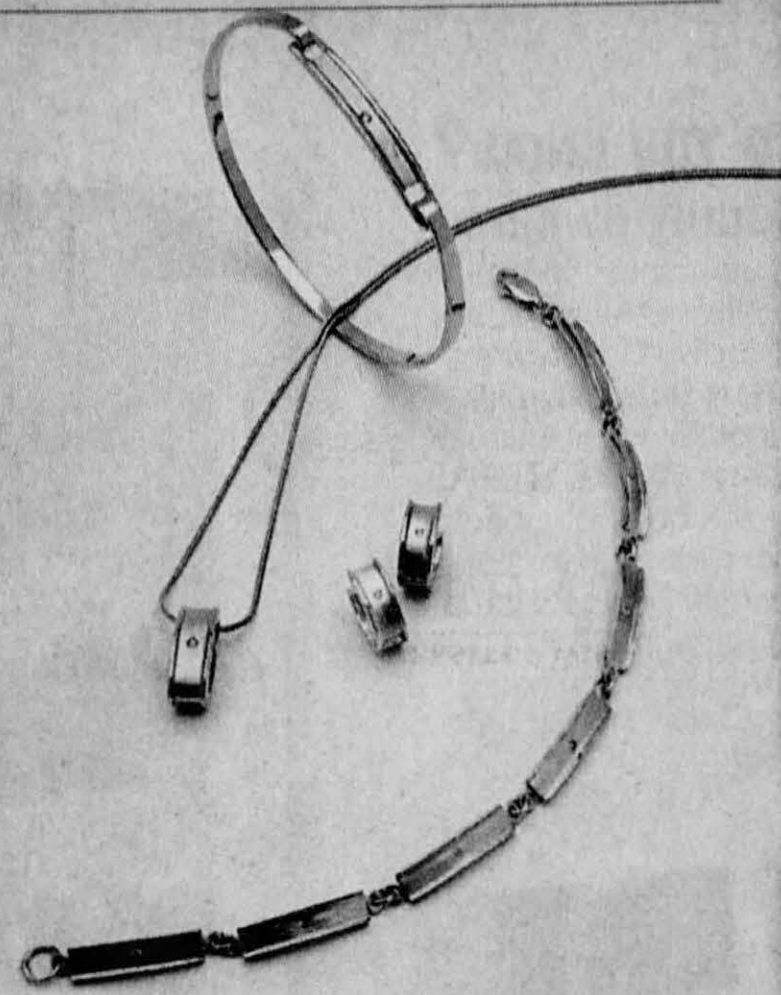
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